SUMMER 2018 EDITION
Minority Fellowship Program
AAMFT Research and Education Foundation
The Minority Fellowship Program, under the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Research and Education Foundation, funded by SAMHSA, hits double digits! Read about the 10-year journey of MFP, the Fellows that were impacted by the fellowship, and the lasting effect of MFP Doctoral and Now Is The Time- Youth (Master’s – level) trained professionals in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy to provide direct mental health and substance abuse services to underserved and minority populations.

The MFP Program, Past to Present

Since the inception of the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) in 2007 under the AAMFT Research and Education Foundation, the MFP has sought to increase the number of culturally competent marriage and family therapy (MFT) professionals who will provide direct mental health and substance abuse services to underrepresented and minority populations, conduct research, and teach in these areas.

(read more on page 5)
THE MFP TIMES

The MFP Times is published annually, in Summer, by the AAMFT Minority Fellowship Program in Alexandria, Virginia.

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The articles published in The MFP Times are not necessarily the views of the association and are not to be interpreted as official AAMFT policy.

MFP PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) at the AAMFT Research and Education Foundation seeks to increase the number of culturally competent Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) professionals who provide direct mental health and substance abuse services to underserved and minority populations, conduct research and teach in these areas.

MFP Doctoral Fellowship

The MFP Doctoral Program houses two fellowships, the Doctoral Fellowship (DF) and the Dissertation Completion Fellowship (DCF). The mission of both fellowships is consistent with the Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Health and other federal initiatives, to reduce health disparities and to increase the pool of talented, culturally competent doctoral-level researchers, teachers and practitioners dedicated to assisting ethnic minority communities and underserved populations. The Doctoral Fellowship Program is directed towards graduate students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and are in the first three years of academic career (pre-dissertation).

MFP Dissertation Completion Fellowship

The Dissertation Completion Fellowship Program is directed towards graduate students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and are in the last three years of academic career, the dissertation phase.

Now Is The Time – Youth Fellowship

The goal of the Youth Fellowship is to expand the delivery of culturally competent mental health services to children, adolescence, and populations in transition to adulthood (aged 16-25) and to increase the number of masters’ level culturally competent Marriage and Family therapists committed to serving children, adolescence, and populations in transition to adulthood (aged 16-25). The Youth Fellowship is directed to full-time masters-level students who are pursuing an MFT degree.
The Minority Fellowship Program

PRESENT (2018)

MFP Fellows have an impactful presence in Marriage and Family Therapy, applying Culturally Competent models of training to therapy in minorities health and services.

2014

MFP Expansion

Dissertation Completion Fellowship and Master’s Program (MFP-Youth) is added giving more breath and depth to the MFP.

2011

MFP Achievement

MFP Program is recognized by SAMHSA as a national program of excellence. MFP Fellows research projects make advancements in Behavioral Health Field.

2007

MFP Inception

AAMFT Research and Education Foundation starts the MFP. SAMHSA grants funding (2008).

Executive Program Consultants for the MFP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kenneth V. Hardy, PhD</th>
<th>Mudita Rastogi, PhD, LMFT</th>
<th>Stephanie Brooks, PhD, LCSW, LMFT</th>
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A Message from the President

Impact! Making a meaningful and transformational difference in the lives of others! Endeavoring to assure effective, culturally sensitive mental health care and substance abuse services are available to everyone and provided by cultural competent systemic and relational therapists! It has been a treasured privilege in my role as the President of AAMFT and the AAMFT MFT Research and Education Foundation to meet many of the Minority Fellowship Program Fellows and to serve the mission of the association with MFP alumni and mentors. The individual stories are almost always one of a self-less drive to train and to foster specific talents developing therapy applications, conducting research, impacting public policy, advancing scholarship and teaching, promoting the practice of marriage and family therapy or contributing leadership in the provision of mental health and substance abuse services, particularly to underrepresented and minority populations. They are women and men dedicated to using their gifts to effect meaningful change for others.

The AAMFT Research and Education Foundation, missioned to fund systemic and relational research, scholarship, and education in an effort to support and enhance the practice of systemic and relational therapies, advance the health care continuum, and improve client outcomes is a natural home for the MFP program. The Minority Fellowship Program supports the training of culturally competent mental health and substance abuse researchers and practitioners through the MFP Doctoral Fellowship, MFT Dissertation Completion Fellowship and the Now is the Time – Youth Fellowship. Even a brief review of this edition of the MFP Times reflecting on the ten year history of the MFP will immediately highlight the significant dividends of the decade of work by the MFP Fellows, Executive Program Consultants, staff and mentors.

We live in a perplexing time of tremendous disparity, social injustices, and political uncertainty. Mental, emotional, and relational health needs continue to rise and outpace the access to services. Among many other challenges, violence in our schools is escalating and substance abuse remain a persistent problem. Undoubtedly, these problems are equally symptoms of other second order relational and systemic challenges familiar to the marriage and family therapist. MFTs are uniquely poised to effectively intervene in opposition to these challenges by providing effective, systemic and relationship enhancing treatment services. The MFP program multiplies the number of culturally competent professionals providing these broad ranges of services in underserved populations.

I am sincerely grateful to the Fellows who catalyze their skills for effective change, the mentors who guide Fellows on their journey and the MFP staff who assure these opportunities continue. For their work, our world, I honestly believe, is a better place.

Christopher Habben, PhD
The inaugural years of the Minority Fellowship Program, established the program and its goal of increasing the number of culturally competent Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) professionals who provide direct mental health and substance abuse services to underserved and minority populations, conduct research and teach in these areas. In 2007, fellowship opportunities began with 20 Fellows, from various MFT doctoral programs, who had demonstrated a history of commitment to working with underrepresented and minority populations. In the primary years, it was too early for the MFP to adequately assess the long-term effect the training program would have on the professional career development of Fellows. Moreover, key outcome questions that addressed program/contextual factors associated with outcomes would yet be seen.

At the process level, the results were more robust. Fellows in the program were able to receive significant funding, from SAMHSA (2008), which provided alleviation of the cost of tuition, academic books, and other doctoral education/training related expenses. The ability to provide dedicated in-person trainings, through Summer and Winter Think Tanks (now Training Institute), brought Fellows an experience of developing and disseminating research to direct treatment, therapy applications, and improve services that would address the needs of underrepresented and minority populations. In the years that followed, the MFP would place a greater urgency on Fellows for professional development, providing travel stipends, from the AAMFT Foundation to the Annual Conference.

Reaching the near halfway point of existence, in a 10-year journey, the MFP achieved earnest efforts in administering its training program. The MFP received more traction among the academic community which saw a progressive rise in application totals yearly. The MFP was able to attract notable researchers to aid in professional development, additional statistical training, and collaboration of research for Fellows. The standard for program effectiveness was on a steady rise and the MFP became more recognized amongst the MFP Consortium, federal officials, MFT program directors, and other stakeholders. The biggest reward for efforts came with a distinction from SAMHSA as a national program of excellence.

With the MFP surpassing lofty standards, the next hurdle to clear was expansion. The road would be tough, but the MFP would need to capture MFT students at the beginning of their MFT academic careers. To answer the call of additional mental health professionals in direct service, the Masters program was created. The Youth Fellowship, created in 2014 under the Now Is The Time Initiative (Obama Administration), provided the MFP an opportunity to expand the Fellowship to captivate Masters-level students who would provide direct mental health and substance abuse services to underserved and minority populations. The MFP also created another arm of the Doctoral program, the Dissertation Completion Fellowship, to include students involved in the dissertation phase of their academic career.

On the horizon, the MFP looks to the future of the program. The MFP will continue to use longitudinal data to keep pace with the changing academic spheres and policy development concerning Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The MFP continues to show program effectiveness and impact of MFP alumni. Currently, data-gathering from various sources (MFP database, Fellow Interviews, MFP Survey Career Surveys, and Progress Surveys) have shown that MFP Alumni are remaining in the field of MFT helping to develop treatments in therapy, Public Health initiatives, and research, running private practices, and taking on leadership roles in Mental Health and Substance Abuse areas.
Congratulations to the new cohorts of MFP Doctoral and Master’s level Fellows. There is no better way to celebrate another anniversary than by welcoming the next cohort of MFP Fellows who will be trained, mentored, and equipped to provide direct service and develop research that will serve minority and underserved populations in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy. We are excited that the MFP continues to expand with more Fellows passing eligibility this year. For the year, 2017-18, there are 25 Doctoral Fellows and 42 Masters Fellows, which is the MFP has the largest cohort to date. All Fellow biographies are listed on the MFP website.

Below in Table 1, 2017-18 MFP Application Count, is a snapshot of the geographic regions and locations that Marriage and Family Therapy students have applied to be considered for the Minority Fellowship Program. Funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA, is shown in, Exhibit 1. MFP and NITT-Y Funding, FY 2011 – FY 2018.

### Table 1. 2017-18 MFP Application Count

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<th>2017-18 Applicant Current State</th>
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<th>2017-18 Applicant Current State</th>
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Beyond the Walls of Practice

Each Fellow is engaged in scholarship that connects their clinical and research interests. All Fellows must complete a research proposal that is approved by the Executive Program Consultant, Dr. Stephanie Brooks. One such proposal, written by Leslie Anderson, pictured right, a doctoral level Fellow, highlighted care that extends further than the walls of practice. This research encourages colleges/universities’ programs to develop more programs as MFT’s extend care to more non-traditional practice operations. In, Beyond the Therapy Room: MFT’s Views Towards Providing Therapy in Community Settings, Anderson discusses the need for new MFTs to familiarize themselves with the natural environment of the family to be able to enhance the therapeutic process. The access to a family’s environment provides invaluable contextual information.

By drawing from research from The United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA), Anderson emphasizes the need for MFTs in the Mental Health profession. SAMHSA has produced a report in which the findings were that mental health problems that children and adolescents experience are connected to social, interpersonal, and family problems and the need for treatment is increasing. Anderson states that the generated report highlights the training for MFT’s to be poised to move beyond the traditional therapy room and into school’s systems and other areas in secondary education. MFT’s receive systemic training which helps them to bring together multiple systems that will build strong collaborations between families, school faculty, and themselves making a significant impact in the whole model of care for therapy in adolescents and families. (Kathleen C. Laundy, 2011)

An approach of movement from traditional therapy settings is one of the areas that Anderson views as growth opportunities. Anderson places an emphasis on the focus of practice. Traditionally, the focus of practice would be placed on the individual youth receiving therapy. However, moving outside of a therapy room, the focus will view the school and allow for that system to inform treatment. The purpose of the change of focus is due to the clinician having to collaborate with other members of the school’s community to ensure treatment is impactful. Anderson notes that specialized training for community-based therapists can enhance therapy and meet the needs of the individual and families that the clinician serves.

The design of study follows an exploratory mixed methods approach. The method of research frame used was Heuristic Inquiry, which is a form of phenomenological inquiry that brings to the fore the personal experience

and insights of the researcher. The participants involved in the research study were both licensed and unlicensed MFTs who have or are providing therapy in non-traditional settings, such as school or the homes of individuals and families.

Data collection methods involved were: one on one interviews, conducted via telephone and internet using video conferencing technology, surveys which helped to inform the collection of quantitative data. One-way analysis of variance was also conducted of quantitative data to examine the perceptions of community-based MFT practices.

The research findings show that MFT’s are well versed to provide care outside of the therapy room, which are timely as the MFT field works to expand the growth and delivery of the profession within the Behavioral and Mental Health field. The research findings can be used by training programs to evaluate curriculum that addresses competencies for clinicians that practice in the community. Anderson hopes that the research will spark a collaborative effort between MFT programs and community agencies to provide practicums and/or internships, which will help provide students more diverse opportunities to practice home based services.

The fellowships focus on more than research as the ability of direct service is of major need for trained mental health professionals. The MFP also fosters learning that will engage Fellows to act when necessary to provide culturally competent health services to the community. MFP Fellows receive training to provide culturally competent health services to the ethnic minorities and underserved populations in their communities and the community at-large. The tools given to Fellows through a MFP Fellowship augment what they receive in their academic programs and prepare for events to use relevant training. MFP Fellows become proactive in community efforts to serve in their communities.

Flavia Almonte, pictured below right, is in the Master’s Fellowship Program, Cohort year 2017-2018, provided by the Minority Fellowship Program. The MFP program funding has allowed for Almonte to continue her academic education while receiving training that will help her focus on her passions, working with disadvantaged groups, including ethnic minorities, military families, in Marriage and Family Therapy. Almonte was also selected to attend the 2018 Leadership Symposium in Seattle, Washington.

Almonte’s South Florida community has faced several disasters during the last 8 months. The aftermath of Hurricane Irma has left devastation in the area, which attributed to a late start to the academic school year. While dealing with the emotional effects of one hurricane, shortly after, the neighboring Caribbean islands were wrecked by Hurricane Maria providing more challenges for Almonte, other students, friends. Through much adversity Almonte persevered. Almonte’s passion of serving her greater community led to her collaboration with the Marriage and Family Therapy Club at Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale, FL). In her role as Community Involvement Representative, Almonte helped to fund-raise for relief efforts to the residents of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, all of whom were displaced by Hurricane Maria.
Almonte was also involved in helping alleviate issues related to recent trauma due to secondary education weapon violence in her community. Almonte recalled the events that happened in the turning of the new year. On February 14, 2018, Flavia was in class when the tragic events occurred at Major Stoneman Douglas Middle School in Parkland, Florida. The school, situated minutes away, was subjected to a shooter who opened fire on the student body, faculty, and staff. Immediately, MFT graduate students, including Almonte, mobilized groups to provide psychological first-aid to the victims, which included ethnic and minority youth. Almonte also partnered with The Healing Arts Institute of South Florida International Incorporated, to offer psychological first-aid to local students who were involved in the traumatic event. The assistance provided by Almonte and others helped to alleviate overwhelmed school counselors due to the increasing volume of students who needed counseling services. Almonte continues to provide therapeutic services to several children at the school in the aftermath of the shooting.
Science and Culture

MFP Fellows frequently produce research projects that present the intersection of culture and policy, which augments the training they receive to improve services to underserved and ethnic minority populations. This section, Science and Culture, highlights two research proposals from the MFP Doctoral Cohort.

Dara Winley’s research proposal, *Examining the Role of Parent’s Social Provisions on Parental Validation and Adolescent Internalizing Symptoms*, investigates the relationship between the perceived parental social provisions/social support and observed parental validation in families seeking ABFT treatment for adolescent depression and suicide risk. Winley’s research is an extension of a National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) clinical trial in which Attachment Based Family Therapy (ABFT) and Family Enhanced Non-Directive Supportive Therapy were compared. However, Winley used a three-pronged method for collecting data, in which assessment of changes in parenting, parent perceived social support, and adolescent symptoms were measured and analyzed through descriptive statistics, bivariate correlations, and path analysis. The results of the study concluded that none of the six path coefficients were significant in the study sample that was selected. Although results were not significant in this sample, research highlights the importance of examining how parenting may influence adolescent outcomes. This research study adds to the existing literature targeting parental behaviors on adolescent mental health outcomes.

In academia, researchers often collaborate on research studies and our Fellows continue in this path of collaboration. Silva Leija and Anike Adekoya (Doctoral Fellows) worked together to produce, *Mental Health Services Engagement & Racial/Ethnic Minority Women in College: A Brief Online Intervention*, which was guided by three SAMHSA Initiatives (Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness, Health Care and Health Systems Integration, and Trauma and Justice). Using the Brief Personalized Normative Feedback, the study targeted race and gender to increase motivation to engage services when needed. Three groups were chosen for the study (all between ages 18-25); two treatment groups, based upon participants gender, and participants race and gender, and the control group. Each group was measured using post-intervention survey questions (Likert-type scale) and quantified by statistical analysis (SPSS, One-way ANOVAs, Post hoc Games-Howell analyses, and two-tailed tests). The results of this study indicated that with the intervention the participants were highly likely to seek mental health services and recommend mental health services to a friend (p-value < .05, for both variables).
MFP Alumni Spotlight

With the existence of the MFP extending to its 10th year, the MFP is poised to continue to produce MFT professionals that receive robust and advanced training aligned with SAMHSA initiatives, professional development, mentorship, participation in cutting edge research, support (both financially and academically) and a diverse experience on track with cultural competency models, which impact the ability of service helping Fellows succeed in achieving their goals to care for minorities and underserved populations. The goals of the Minority Fellowship Program are to expand the delivery of cultural competent mental health and substance abused services to underserved minority populations and to increase Marriage and Family Therapy professionals who can provide direct mental health and substance services to these populations.

The impact that the MFP has had on the Marriage and Family Therapy profession can be seen from the many MFTs that are trained and given the tools to impact the Mental Health field through improving and expanding mental health and substance abuse services to minority and underserved populations.

Listed below are MFP Alumni, who were a part of the inaugural cohort, their progress and achievements, and the impact that the training and education they received while in the MFP Fellowship Program, which helped them the path to be leaders in the MFT field.

DAVID CÓRDOVA, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan in the School of Social Work and a NIH Visiting Professor at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

Research Interests: Health Inequities, HIV/AIDS, Substance Use, Mental Health, Prevention, Technology-Based Interventions, Culturally Informed Assessment

Most Recent Publications (52 Publications in total):


* Invited Manuscript for Special Issue: Discrepancies in Adolescent–Parent Perceptions of the Family and Adolescent Adjustment. Guest Editors Andres De Los Reyes & Christine McCauley Ohannessian


**Lister, Zephon Ph.D., LMFT**, is the Program Director of the Systems, Families, and Couples Ph.D. program at Loma Linda University.

Research Interests: Recursive influences of family relationships and health, Integration of behavioral health into health care settings, and the Role of religion and spirituality on family functioning, Health/MedFT

Past Notable Work:

As the director (and Assistant Clinical Professor) of the Collaborative Care program, Dr. Lister helped expand the program from three to seven primary care clinics within the UCSD health system. He also helped fully integrate their behavioral health program through the Targeted Collaborative-Integrative Assessment Response and Empowerment Model (T-CARE) which was developed by the UCSD Collaborative Care program to address the immediate real-time needs of primary care providers and their patients. Additionally, he helped develop and implement a universal depression screening protocol within the department of family medicine. These efforts along with others were acknowledged through the 2016 nomination and reception of the Collaborative Family Health Association (CFHA), Wingspread Award for a commitment to the advancement of patient and family centered health care and positively impacting the lives of their students, mentees, or colleagues through their work.

Publications:

Dr. Lister has several publications in peer reviewed journals, national and international professional presentations at conferences, funded grants and positions on national boards and committees.

**Morgan, Martha L. PhD, MS, M.Ed, LMFT**, is an Associate Professor, with dual appointments in the Family and Human Services/Graduate Counseling, at John Brown University, an Adjunct Faculty member at Seattle University and Abilene Christian University, for ON-LINE Course Design, an AAMFT Approved Supervisor, and Licensed MFT in Arkansas and Michigan. Dr. Morgan also serves as a Board Member for Satir Global Network, and an Ad-Hoc Reviewer for the Contemporary Family Therapy Editorial Advisory Board, Minority Fellowship Program, Mentor 2014-2016.

Publications:


Morgan, M. L. (June, 2016). Pathways to success: A mentoring program for training students of color in marriage and family therapy. Accepted poster presentation. American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA) Open Conference. Denver, CO. (refereed)


Eppler, C., Quek, K., & Morgan, M. L. (June, 2014). The Reformation of Gender for Male Therapists in Training. Accepted for oral presentation. American Academy for Family Therapy (AFTA) Open Conference. Atlanta, GA. (refereed)

Morgan, M. L. (February, 2013). The Role of Coping and Self-Esteem on Success of African American Graduate Students. Brief report accepted for presentation at the 21st World Family Therapy Congress: Orlando, FL. (refereed)


Jenkins-Monroe, V., Connor, M., Morgan, M. L., Smith, M., McCoy, J., Gaffney, F., Williams, R., Webster, K. (July,

Research (Grant-Related Experience):

Role of Family in Latino/a Students Decision to Attend Graduate School (January 2011 – Present)
Public Leadership Impact

The following Fellows of the MFP inaugural cohorts have made a momentous impact in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy in the category of Public Leadership. The following section highlights Fellows who have made Public Leadership Impact in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy and across other disciplines.

**Oka, Megan, PhD**

Dr. Megan Oka has been teaching in accredited MFT programs for seven years. She has published several articles advancing research in the field by examining clinical processes, domestic violence, and gender. Oka’s expansive duties within her university, the Utah State University, does not stop her from advising, instructing, and mentoring others. She has mentored and supervised over 90 students, including many minority students, who have gone on to doctoral programs at prestigious universities. Most noted by Oka, is that she continues to advance family play therapy nationally by presenting at AAMFT Annual Conference and regionally, by giving workshops on play therapy at state conferences and other universities. Recently, she has served on the MFP Advisory Committee, (2015-2017).

**Williams, Maria, PhD**

Visionary. Change Agent. Servant are a few words that describe Dr. Maria Shantell Williams. Living out her meaningful assignment in mental health and leadership development, Dr. Maria has over ten years of experience working with education systems, mental health agencies, and community organizations. She is a licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, and certified leadership consultant trained under the phenomenal John Maxwell. She is the founder of the Relationship Institute, a counseling and consulting firm based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana which specializes in wholistic care and leadership development.

Dr. Williams has organized and hosted numerous community summits centered on engaging at risk youth, community leaders, and professional black women. She has used media outlets such as television, newspapers, and magazines to discuss health, family, and relationship matters. She is known for her wisdom, innovation, and approachable way of relating to others. She enjoys spending time with family, mentoring teen girls, volunteering in the community and in her local church. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Junior League of Baton Rouge, and actively participates in the Urban Congress and several other organizations centered on enhancing the community. Dr. Maria hopes to continue her journey of utilizing her leadership experience and training in relationship dynamics to assist individuals and organizations in accomplishing their goals for growth and development.
MFP Volunteers

Volunteering for the MFP is an amazing opportunity to further the mission of expanding culturally competent mental health services to underserved populations, contribute to the growth and development of the behavioral health workforce, and gain access to members with similar interests and professional goals.

There are multiple ways to serve as a volunteer in the MFP. Through a nominal contribution of your time, you can contribute to the efforts of the MFP in shaping the Marriage and Family Therapy workforce and enhancing the field of mental health. You may apply to any of these positions listed below here!

MFP Volunteer Positions

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To review the volunteer position, you would like to apply for, please visit the MFP Volunteer Application Information Page.

The Minority Fellowship Program has the largest cohort to date and the largest number of volunteers for mentors for the program since its inception. In the 2017-18 cohort year, the MFP has 27 mentors! With the increase in number of volunteers the MFP has increased its recognition efforts. The MFP is grateful for those who volunteer their time to invest in the Fellows. MFP presents its first ever Mentor of the year award to Dr. Phillip Greenwood (side-bar). Mentor biographies are online.

Dr. Greenwood’s experience as an MFT spans over a 26-year career as a family therapist on the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry acute care unit at Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg, VA. He retired in 2013. His passion for marriage and family therapy led him to serve as an AAMFT Minority Fellowship Mentor during the 2016-2017 term, as he was eager to help students and young professionals learn and grow in the profession. Dr. Greenwood joined AAMFT as a student member in 1978. As a Clinical Fellow, he served on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (VAMFT) from 1993 to 2017. After being in the field for many years, he decided to use his expertise and wealth of knowledge to serve as a mentor for the MFP. The Minority Fellowship Program is grateful for Dr. Greenwood’s time and investment in the program and the fellows. The MFP Fellows and staff have unanimously agreed that Dr. Greenwood’s approach to mentorship has created a lasting impact. Dr. Greenwood is excited to continue serving as a mentor.

Volunteer Applications are due: Friday, July 27, 2018
Adekoya, Anike R., Incarceration & Mental Health Amongst African American Parents. Using a Stress Process Model (Pearlin, 1989) and the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study dataset, with the support from a colleague in Epidemiology, the researcher quantitatively examined relationships between stressful exposure to incarceration and later reports of mood disorders and somatization; possible moderators were also evaluated, including relationship quality. The researcher will review the original study, its limitations, and implications.

Armstrong, Joslyn, Risk & Protective Factors of Black Fathers in Mental Health Services. Black men and fathers make up one of the lowest demographics to seek mental health services. Research has not addressed the barriers these men face in seeking therapy. The research study interviewed 20-50 Black fathers aged 18-65 years old. Results provide direction for clinical interventions on how to increase Black father participation in therapy.

Armstrong, Joslyn, Black Fathering & Risky Sexual Behaviors: A Research Synthesis. African American adolescent girls are at an increased risk for negative sexual behaviors in comparison to other racial groups. This research synthesis examined 13 empirical studies. Results indicated that a father’s positive influence delayed their daughter’s engagement in sexual and romantic relationships. Clinicians and practitioners can guide African American parents in discussions about sex with their daughters to reduce risk.

Cless, Jessica, Personality, Adversity, and Relational Aggression. This study examines the association between neuroticism, adverse childhood experiences, and relational aggression in a sample of 225 young adults. Using structural equation modeling, this study reports how personality factors as well as experiences of childhood adversity and trauma may contribute to relational aggression in the context of romantic relationships.
Crabtree, Sarah, “*What Are We?*” This research discussion will describe the findings of a critical review of marital separation research, including critiques of the conceptualization of separation in the larger body of divorce literature, methodological challenges and limitations in existing research, and the need for more robust theory development. Clinical implications and recommendations for future research will be discussed.

Cooper, Daniel*, **Effects of Environmental Risk Factors on Mexican Youth’s PTSD Scores.** This presentation will discuss the results of a study conducted in Mexico with mother-child dyads impacted by trauma. The relationship between mother-child interaction patterns and child PTSD was explored through the use of an actor-partner interdependence model. Results highlighted the effects that traumatic stress can have on mother-child relationship indicators (e.g. affection and positive communication) and dyadic problem-solving skills.

Cooper, Daniel*, **Mental Health Scholars using Evidence Based Treatments with Latinos.** Mental health scholars’ experiences developing and implementing culturally relevant evidence-based treatments (EBTs) with Latino/a families in the United States were explored in this phenomenological who can be classified as sexual minorities and then examined the trajectory of binge drinking. Each sample found significant different implications.

Gutierrez, Dumayi, **Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Latinos.** Within recent years, significant research has continued to explore the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population. However, there has been minimal exploration of the lives of sexual and racial minorities, specifically the Latino population. This presentation will discuss a qualitative investigation exploring experiences of LGBT Latinos through religiosity, acculturation, navigation of identities, mental distress and acceptance.

Gutierrez, Dumayi, **Adult Systemic Attachment Outcomes of Children with Same Sex Parents.** With the number of same sex parents in the US, around 131,000 and growing, same sex parent-child attachment research and its adult outcomes is essential for clinical work with same sex families. This presentation will discuss a qualitative investigation of adults who reported having same sex parents, attachment outcomes and relationship quality as an adult.

Gonzalez, Natali, **Acculturation and Hispanic Immigrants’ Parenting.** This workshop will explore the process Hispanic families undergo when migrating to the United States through the implementation of a constructivist grounded theory methodology. The study sheds light to the struggles present when migrating, how interacting with one another culture influences parenting, and how professionals working with this population can assist them. Additional clinical and research implications will also be discussed.

**Morgan, Preston,** **Relation Between Children’s Self-Efficacy and Depressive Symptoms.** A time varying growth curve model was used to predict trajectories of depressive symptoms of children participating in the Families and School for Health Project. Higher reports of child-perceived cognitive competence and acceptance by peers were associated with less depressive symptoms across three years (1st to 4th grades).

**Patton, Rikki,** **Examining Relatedness and Alcohol Use Among Older Latinos.** Relatively little research has examined the association between alcohol use and systemic notions (such as relatedness) among older Latinos. Using secondary data retrieved through ICPSR, findings indicated a significant relationship between relatedness and alcohol use among older adult sample. Current findings can inform continued systemic exploration of older adults’ substance use.

**Richardson, Natalie,** **Helping Families Navigate the Ambiguity of Intellectual Disability.** The research presentation will provide information on the unclear and unique experiences of families of individuals with ID across the lifespan and highlighted potential challenges clinicians may face when working with similar populations.

**Torres, Jennifer,** **Physical Stabilities and Elder Abuse: A Meta-Analysis.** This meta-analysis examined risk markers related to physical disabilities in elder abuse and neglect perpetration and victimization. Findings demonstrated that general physical disability, general physical health, activities of daily living (ADL), Instrumental ADL, Vitality/Energy, and Overweight/Obesity ranged from small to large effect sizes. Results will inform the clinical practice of therapists working with clients struggling elder abuse and neglect.

**Smith, Karmen**, **Familial Voices: Systems of Care in the Monadnock Region.** Our phenomenological inquiry developed a deeper understanding of how families with youths receiving services experience the mental health program, ion the Monadnock region of New Hampshire. Participants will hear how a sample of families experience current mental health care programs and how these experiences are being used to shape the develop and implementation of wraparound services in the Monadnock Region.

* Current Minority Fellowship Program Fellow
Solosky, Kristy. *Sexual Minorities Identity Development and Binge Drinking.* This project uses the ADD Health dataset to examine how changing inclusions criteria for sexual identity can affect the findings and implications of research. We selected four different samples of adolescents who can be classified as sexual minorities and then examined the trajectory of binge drinking. Each sample found significant differences in results with different implications.

Utzran, Damir. *Nationwide Assessment of the Refugee Resettlement Infrastructure.* This research discussion will present the findings of a quantitative demographic and quantitative open-ended assessment of the United States’ refugee resettlement infrastructure. It will also address the implications for public policy and clinical practice.

Van Fossen, Catherine*. *Family Functioning in Pediatric Primary Care.* The purpose of this study was to pilot a brief measure of family functioning (Family Assessment Device General Functioning Subscale) in pediatric primary care practices among caregivers of children aged 2-18. This project ultimately seeks to mitigate potential healthcare disparities through increasing providers’ ability to make informed psychotherapy referrals in traditionally underserved populations.

Woolford, Sarah. *The Emotional Process of Mothers in PMTO: A Qualitative Study.* The purpose of this study was to gain a better understanding of the emotional process of mothers who participated in an evidence-based parenting intervention. Qualitative data were analyzed from n=17 mothers who completed the PMTO intervention. Findings illustrate a systematic process of emotional experience from crisis stabilization to emerging recovery, with transformations at the individual, relational, and systemic levels.

Williams, Zenova. *Resiliency Factors for Black/White Interracial Couples.* By comparing and contrasting Black husband/White wife and Black wife/White husband unions, our research intends to gather dyadic data from 100 interracial couples consisting of Black men married to White women and Black women married to White men to examine potential relationship resiliency factors using Actor Partner Interdependence Models (APIM).

**MFP Application Central**

**Application Numbers 2018-19**

The Minority Fellowship Program is pleased to announce the application numbers for the upcoming cohort year. The Application Period for the 2018-19 cohort was open December 1, 2017 and closed January 31, 2018.

**MFP Application Data**

**MFP-Doctoral Fellowship:**
New: 53 completed applications  
Renewals: 10 completed applications  
Total: 63 applications

**MFP-Masters Fellowship:**
New: 79 completed applications  
Renewals: 7 completed applications  
Total: 86 applications

Total MFP Completed Applications: **149**

The MFP [Application](#)  
Opens: December 3, 2018  
Closes: January 31, 2019 (11:59 PM EST)
MFP Events

The Minority Fellowship Program hosts several events for Fellows during the fellowship year for them to network with MFT professionals and gain more knowledge on advancements in the field of MFT. For the cohort year, 2017-2018, the MFP had 67 Fellows who attended the 2017 Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The MFP acted as an Exhibitor, which to its advantage could recruit and reinforce the MFP program within the field of MFT to students, faculty, and mental health professionals. During the Showcase section of the conference, the MFP held a social hour to speak captivate to graduate students about the program and connect Fellows and alumni.

MFP Fellow Orientation

The MFP Fellow orientation gives Fellows the opportunity to introduce themselves, get to know staff, and prepare for the upcoming fellowship year. The Fellow Orientation also reintroduces the many resources, training tools, financial benefits, and networking opportunities that are offered through the fellowship. Fellows learn about the mission and goals of the Minority Fellowship Program while learning its policies and procedures. Fellows are informed of the trainings and benefits offered during the fellowship year, including professional webinars, and online Teneo courses to provide continuing education credits. Professional webinars are conducted with Marriage and Family therapists who have been in the field for a few years. Conducting professional webinars with leaders in the field allows Fellows to ask questions and to gain different viewpoints on various research that is being conducted in the field. The MFP Research Consultant Dr. Jared Durtschi, works with Doctoral Fellows on how to conduct quality research for their dissertation through trainings and individual consultation. Fellows attend the AAMFT Annual Conference and Training Institute where they attend training workshops and network with MFT professionals while presenting their own research to their peers. Each Fellow is paired with a mentor, an experienced MFT, who can guide them on their research, personal goals, academic goals, and, professional goals through mentorship.

MFP Fellow Meet & Greet

The MFP Fellow Meet and Greet allows Masters and Doctoral Fellows to become acquainted. Through the MFP Fellow Meet and Greet, the MFP has seen collaborations in research, mentor/mentee relationships develop, and networking opportunities for employment.
The Fellows enjoy this event every year as it provides a break from their busy schedules during the conference to spend time with one another. This year was memorable as Tracy Todd, CEO, AAMFT Foundation, Chris Michaels, COO, AAMFT Foundation, and numerous AAMFT Board members joined this year’s cohort to discuss Fellow’s interests, goals, aspirations, and overall experiences in their programs. This event is an amazing opportunity for Fellows to come together and offer support to one another as they begin the fellowship year.

**MFP Alumni at Conference**

As the Minority Fellowship hits its tenth Anniversary, Alumni play a vital role to the program. During the 2017 AAMFT Annual Conference, the tenth cohort was recognized during the first keynote as the largest cohort to date since the inception of the program in 2007. The Fellows, along with MFP Alumni presence at the conference, were impactful as the program celebrates ten years and continues to expand. The Master’s fellowship (est. 2014) continues to grow significantly and expand the program trainings, and the Doctoral Program (est. 2007) remains stable as it reaches its tenth year. The MFP staff had the opportunity to connect with alumni and hear about their accomplishments and how the Fellowship made a lasting impact personally, academically and professionally. MFP Alumni shared their individual experiences from the fellowship with current fellows and students interested in the program. MFP alumni encouraged graduate students to apply to the program and to take advantage of benefits of the fellowship. MFP alumni had an opportunity to sign up and volunteer for the MFP to continue the cycle of investing in future mental health leaders at the MFP booth. For MFP alumni presentations at conference please view the article, *MFP’s Impactful Presence at the AAMFT17 Conference*.

**MFP Fellow Experience at 2017 Conference**

The following are quotes from MFP Fellows about the Annual Conference.

“The national conference allowed me to learn new therapeutic techniques and to stay up to date on relevant research and clinical issues.”

“I enjoyed my time networking, collaborating, and learning throughout this conference.”

“As a grad student, we often do not take or have the time for events like this (Annual Conference). Even today, I have benefitted so much from networking at this conference.”
The AAMFT Leadership Symposium provides an opportunity* for Fellows and MFT Emerging Leaders to network and enhance various facets of their leadership through area management training, state and national level advocacy initiatives, and open collaboration. MFP Fellows not only gain from their experiences at the conference but also contribute their knowledge, expertise and positions to all discussions in leadership breakout sessions increasing the Fellow’s understanding of human diversity, structures of power, privilege, oppression, social justice, and their impact on relationships, institutions and service delivery. The Leadership Symposium encourages Fellows to look within and develop a more comprehensive understanding of the relevant self of the scholar/practitioner issues that may help and/or hinder in the shaping of one’s professional identity as a marital and family therapist. Lastly, Fellows get an unobstructed vision of how this training will segue to an engagement with service and clinical work with underserved populations of interest to the Fellow.

Participation in the Leader Breakout Sessions provided training that helped the Fellows become more acutely aware of the health disparities and needs of communities, gain key clinical and research skills, intervene directly with clients and families in need, engage in scholarship, and become involved in leadership and policy change efforts to promote social justice. Fellows became more aware of policy issues surrounding these concerns.

### Leadership Breakout Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership Breakout Sessions</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing a Specialty Practice</td>
<td>Dr. Carol Podgorski PhD, LMFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Out in Academia</td>
<td>Dr. Naveen Johnathan, PhD, LMFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Accidental Leader</td>
<td>Dr. Christie S. Eppler, PhD, LMFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing for Leadership Roles on Regulatory Boards</td>
<td>Dr. Steve Livingston, PhD, LMFT, Dr. Richard Long, PhD, LMFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Culturally Conscious Leader</td>
<td>Dr. Christie Eppler, PhD, LMFT, Dr. Jeannette Rodriguez, PhD, LMFT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fellows were selected to attend based upon an application through the Minority Fellowship Program

### MFP Fellows in Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amelia Flynn</th>
<th>Erin Kim</th>
<th>Michael Thomas</th>
<th>Uchenna Chukwu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cayla Minaiy</td>
<td>Erin Tillson</td>
<td>Phillip Thompson</td>
<td>Jessica Milian**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Hill</td>
<td>Flavia Almonte</td>
<td>Rachel Lopez De Castilla</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica Garcia</td>
<td>Kevin Hynes</td>
<td>Silvia Leija</td>
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</table>

**Attended the Leadership Symposium with respective university
MFP Training Institute

Formally in Winter, the MFP Training Institute (TI), now hosted in Spring, is an annual four (4) day conference that features interactive seminars and advanced workshops with distinguished scholars and clinicians in the behavioral health field of Marriage and Family Therapy. The goal of the TI is to have an increased familiarity with the major cutting-edge issues and research within the field of MFT, substance abuse, and underrepresented and underserved populations for the MFP Fellows. This goal is essential to the planned end goal of the MFP, to increase the number of culturally competent behavioral health practitioners who provide substance abuse and other mental health services to underserved minority populations.

Each year, MFP Fellows have the opportunity to learn from, and interact with, presenters in the areas cultural sensitive interventions with ethnic minority populations, as well as, the integration of advanced quantitative research modalities. The TI also serves as an opportunity for Fellows to learn and become familiar with advocacy with stakeholders of the MFT and Mental Health Field. The TI also serves as a cohort-relationship building for future research/service collaboration.

This year 21 Doctoral Fellows attended the Training Institute, in Arlington, VA. The TI theme was, Transporting Research: Culturally Responsive Strategies for Dissemination with Individuals, Couples, Families & Communities. Training sessions focused on leadership development, resilience, and cultural adaptation research. Listed below in Table. 2, 2018 TI Training Sessions, were the different sessions provided.

**Table 2. 2018 TI Training Sessions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candace Cooper, PhD, LMFT</td>
<td>From PhD to Confident CEO: The Road to Becoming an Entrepreneur After PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Chambers, Ph.D., ABPP</td>
<td>Translating Research into Clinical Practice with African American and Interracial Couples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mona Mittal, PhD, MPH, LMFT</td>
<td>Integrated IPV and HIV Risk Reduction Interventions: A Research Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Chou, PhD, LMFT</td>
<td>Women and Maternal Substance Use: Research and Program Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFP Advisory Committee Chair</td>
<td>Professional Development Roundtable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jared Durtschi, PhD, LMFT</td>
<td>Mediation and Moderation – Statistical Training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2018 Presenters**
(L-R: Anthony Chambers, Stephanie Brooks, Mona Mittal, Jessica Chou, Jared Durtschi)

**MFP Fellows attend a Statistical Training Workshop at the Training Institute (L-R: Dum, Ashley Frasier, Jesse Smith, Jarrod Hundley)**

**MFP Doctoral Fellows**
MFP Advocacy

The MFP aids the Fellows in becoming more acutely aware of the health disparities and needs of communities, gain key clinical and research skills, intervene directly with clients and families in need, engage in scholarship, and become involved in leadership and policy change efforts to promote social justice. MFP advocacy links directly with SAMHSA’s eight strategic initiatives, and its mission to decrease the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on communities in the United States. There are many events that the MFP conducts to ensure Fellows gain experience in advocacy such as: AAMFT Annual Conference, Leadership Symposium, Training Institute, as well as partnering with AAMFT Networks: FamilyTEAM, and AAMFT Interest Networks.

The Capitol Hill Visit was in Spring 2018. Follow the Twitter Thread, #MFPCapitolHillVisit for more information.

The MFP also provides access to training and education around policy. See, Table 3. Advocacy and Policy Training and Education.

Table 3. Advocacy and Policy Training and Education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training/Education</th>
<th>Fellowship Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Considerations for working with Latino families in MFT</td>
<td>Doctoral/Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights in the Clinical Context: Refugees and Human Trafficking</td>
<td>Doctoral/Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro to Behavioral Couples Therapy for Substance Use Disorders</td>
<td>Doctoral/Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Talk: Diversity &amp; Inclusion in MFT Research and Practice</td>
<td>Doctoral/Youth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MFP Fellow Honors

Fellows in the Minority Fellowship Program are encouraged to participate in opportunities that will enhance their education and experiences they receive from the MFP Fellowship and in their respective colleges. Trasyi Flores (California State University-Northridge) and Jessica Millan (Pacific Lutheran University) and are two Fellows in the MFP Youth (Masters) Fellowship who competed in the AAMFT Student Ethics Competition, which they submitted an essay responding to a scenario chose by the AAMFT Ethics Committee. The AAMFT Student Ethics Competition is, “designed to encourage MFT students to foster an interest in ethics issues and enhance their ability to analyze and respond to the various ethics issues that they will undoubtedly encounter throughout their careers.” (AAMFT, 2018) Now Fellows, the team with Jessica Milian received a second-place distinction. In the same regard, the team with Traysi Flores received a third-place distinction for their work.

The tools received from the MFP allow fellows to go beyond the domestic call and reach for international leadership, scholarship, and influence. Leslie Anderson, MFP Doctoral Fellow at University of Georgia, and Daniel Cooper (pictured right), MFP Doctoral Fellow at the University of Minnesota, will be presenting at the 2018 International Family Therapy Association World Family Therapy Congress in Bangkok, Thailand. The IFTA World Family Therapy Congress provides an international platform in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy that students and professionals can share and exchange knowledge and innovative thinking among the profession. The work of Anderson and Cooper will support the theme of the World Congress, which is the, International Evolution of the Family. The theme focused on, “interactional methodologies for working with families and how those changes impact the families with which therapists work.” (IFTA, 2018)

Anderson and Cooper’s works fit and give influence on interactional methodological practices that help when working with couples, families, and communities that include various backgrounds and cultures. Both Fellows will have an international platform to present research and discuss how changes in the family impact methods directed by MFTs. Anderson will be presenting on the following content: Putting Cultural Humility into Practice: The Use of Brokers and Consultants in MFT, and The Spiritual and Religious Strengths of African American Couples: An SFT Approach. Cooper will be presenting on the following content: Working with Latina/o Families in the Current Political Climate, and Stress, Couple Satisfaction and the Mediating Role of Sexual Satisfaction.

Anderson operates from a social justice lens and embraces a culturally responsive therapeutic approach. The topics on which she presented, cultural humility and the use of cultural brokers in marriage and family therapy, is innovative, inspiring, and relevant in an age where acknowledging specific cultural values and norms is essential to meeting the needs of underrepresented minority families and communities. Anderson’s workshop engaged participants through experiential exercises and provided them with practical guidelines to implement cultural brokering practices in therapy. Additionally, Anderson presented a theoretical discussion through a poster presentation describing the importance of addressing the religiosity and spirituality of African American
couples in therapy through a solution-focused orientation. This aspect of couples’ identity was highlighted as a unique strength for this population and supports the work of culturally responsive therapists. Practical implications for addressing religiosity and/or spirituality with African American couples were provided for clinicians.

“The Minority Fellowship Program offered me the first time to go to the AAMFT Annual Conference and I was not disappointed. It (the opportunity) was an amazing experience to be surrounded by like-minded MFT students and hundreds of practitioners and researchers. I gained valuable skills and knowledge not only from the trainings, but also from the networking opportunities. Going to the conference renewed my sense of purpose and drive to be a MFT and to further the field in the future.”

- Kevin Hynes, MFP Doctoral Fellow, University of Connecticut, MFT PhD Program

(Photo: Silvia Leija, MFP Doctoral Fellow, Michigan State University, Human Development and Family Studies, and Kevin Hynes, at the Leadership Symposium, L-R)
# MFP Fellows Internships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Internship Site</th>
<th>MFP Program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Leslie</td>
<td>ASPIRE Center, Interdisciplinary Clinic</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, Natasha</td>
<td>RS Eden, Men's Residential Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper, Daniel</td>
<td>Centro Tyrone Guzman and Progressive Individual Resources Inc</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumayi Gutierrez</td>
<td>CFT LGBTQ clinic at the University of Iowa</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrill, Jasmine</td>
<td>Family Institute at Northwestern University</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frazier, Ashley</td>
<td>Cedar Rapids Non-Profit: Mentorship for Girls</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, Eugene</td>
<td>RS Eden - Lorenz Clinic of Family Psychology (men's residential substance abuse treatment program)</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hundley, Jarodd</td>
<td>The Wellspring Alliance</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hynes, Kevin</td>
<td>Humphrey Clinic for Individual, Family and Couple Therapy</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leija, Silvia</td>
<td>Michigan State Couple and Family Therapy Clinic</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love, Heather</td>
<td>Family Center at Kansas State University - School of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, and the Fort Riley Army base</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercado- Sanchez, Natalia</td>
<td>Teaching Assistant for Dr. Cadmona Hall at Adler University</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milstead, Kaitlyn</td>
<td>Texas Tech University Family Therapy Clinic</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minaiy, Cayla</td>
<td>Teaching Assistant and supervising master's students at Texas Tech University - Employee Assistance Program</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith Karmen</td>
<td>SequelCare of Florida</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Jesse</td>
<td>Texas Tech Family Therapy Clinic</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spencer, Chelsea</td>
<td>Family Center at Kansas State University - The Crisis Center-and Meadowlark Hills</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas, Michael</td>
<td>The Family Therapy Center at Virginia Tech</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torres, Jennifer</td>
<td>Counseling and Family Sciences Clinic at the Behavioral Health Institute</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomlinson, Allison</td>
<td>Private Practice</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torres, Jennifer</td>
<td>Counseling and Family Sciences Clinic at the Behavioral Health Institute</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Fossen, Catherine</td>
<td>Schoenbaum Family Center</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>VanBergen, Alexandra</td>
<td>Ohio State University, Couple and Family Therapy Clinic</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander, Pia</td>
<td>Counseling and Mental Health Professions Clinic at Hofstra University's Saltzman Community Services Center</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Almonte, Flavia</td>
<td>PROMISE (Preventing Recidivism through Opportunities, Mentoring, Interventions, Support, and Education), and The Healing Arts Institute of South Florida International</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bechtelheimer, Jamie</td>
<td>Youth Services of Tulsa and Center for Family Services</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmona, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Koslow Center and Child and Family Guidance Center</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter, Charles</td>
<td>Marriage and Family Institute and Medical and Counseling Care Center (MACCC) at ACU</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childs, Thomas</td>
<td>Fort Riley</td>
<td>Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coleman, Demonica</td>
<td>Marriage and Family Institute at Abilene Christian University</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coleman, Erin</td>
<td>Pfeiffer Institute Reach and Mathews Counseling</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtis, Michael</td>
<td>H.O.P.E. Counseling Services</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czajkowski, Darcie</td>
<td>UCSD Family Medicine</td>
<td>Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flores, Traysi</td>
<td>Westside Children Center in Culver City California</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flynn, Amelia</td>
<td>PINS (Persons in Need of Supervision) faction of Family and Children's Association</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freeman, Trinity</td>
<td>Hope Middle School in Greenville, NC and East Carolina University's Family Therapy Clinic</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garcia, Erica</td>
<td>Northwest Psychological Services</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gooden, Chanell Nicole</td>
<td>Private Practice</td>
<td>Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill, Christopher</td>
<td>Family Houston</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hodges, Sally</td>
<td>Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 High School and K State Family Center</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim, Erin</td>
<td>Family Institute's (at Northwestern University) Bette D. Harris Family and Child Clinic</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lopez, Rachel</td>
<td>Marriage and Family Institute, ACU Medical and Counseling Care Clinic (MACCC) and King David's Kids</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manning, Shelby</td>
<td>New Leaf Resources</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martinez, Leona</td>
<td>Tessa</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>May, Scott</td>
<td>Wamego High School and Community Health Ministry</td>
<td>Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milian, Jessica</td>
<td>Nexus Youth and Families as well as the Couple and Family Therapy Center</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mirpuri, Shalini</td>
<td>Pace Center for Girls</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Mitchell, Kelsey</td>
<td>Summit Academy and Louisville Seminary Counseling Center</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Mohammadi, Shamim</td>
<td>Urban Services YMCA SF and Western Addiction Family Center</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Skeide, Casey</td>
<td>Anicca Adolescent Day Treatment of Carver County, MN.</td>
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<td>Sorensen, Rebecca</td>
<td>Kansas State Family Center</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Taschman, Katrina</td>
<td>Virginia Tech's Center for Family Services and Multicultural Center of Northern Virginia Family Service</td>
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<td>Thompson, Phillip</td>
<td>Catholic Enrichment Center (CEC) in Louisville Kentucky.</td>
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<td>Tillson, Erin</td>
<td>Father Ryan High School's Personal Counseling Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tucker, Emily</td>
<td>Center for Family Services, at Oklahoma State University and Warren-Alexander Group</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams Jr, Charles</td>
<td>Center for Marriage and Family Therapy at Reformed Theological Seminary</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams, Christina</td>
<td>The &quot;Strong Family Therapy&quot; unit at the University of Rochester's medical center and St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center.</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willis, Vyshika</td>
<td>Lutheran Community Counselling Services</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yzaguirre, Melissa</td>
<td>Center for Individual, Couple, and Family Counseling at UNLV</td>
<td>Masters</td>
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MFP Fellow Publications

**Anderson, Leslie**


**Bell, Natasha**


**Cooper, Daniel**


**Fraizer, Ashley**


**Gutierrez, Dumayi**


**Hynes, Kevin**

Love, Heather


Milstead, Kaitlyn


Minaiy, Cayla


Spencer, Chelsea


Torres, Jennifer*


In August of 2017, The Minority Fellowship Program was pleased to welcome, Jermaine Lowery, MPH as the new Program Manager of the MFP. Mr. Lowery’s position within the MFP was created to manage the day-to-day operations and fiscal responsibilities for the MFP. Mr. Lowery’s role involves executing the development of recruitment and marketing strategies for the MFP to programs, colleges, and universities, administering program activities, and serving as a liaison between stakeholders, and the AAMFT Foundation.

Mr. Lowery comes to the MFP with a robust background in finance and administration/management of Hospital, Public Health, and Non-Profit organization management. While in Healthcare Administration, Lowery, published a book influencing healthcare and patient research, in the development of patient experience in health systems in the United States and Europe. When asked what influenced his change to MFT, Lowery said, “After seeing care administered in healthcare and public health practice with a multidisciplinary approach not involving MFTs and with more legislation being favorable to MFTs, I am blessed to witness the field of MFT evolve and provide more care and support for couples, families, adolescents and clients. I want to help prepare the next generation of leaders in MFT.” Mr. Lowery, a Pastor, serves on a few Non-Profit organization boards and committees.

La’Chey Horn was selected from a rigorous hiring process to be the new MFP Program Assistant at AAMFT Research and Education Foundation, under the Minority Fellowship Program. Ms. Horn will assist the MFP with applications and application review process, fellowship eligibility verification, monitoring of MFP databases, and preparation and logistics of projects for the MFP program. In the role of MFP Program Assistant, Ms. Horn, will be the point of contact for MFP Masters Fellows.

Ms. Horn’s passion for helping others led her to pursue a degree in Psychology. Since receiving her B.A in Psychology from Johnson C. Smith University, she has worked in secondary education, helping to monitor needs of children. Growing up, Ms. Horn saw the need for mental health care within her community and family and she plans to make a career helping to create programs to help strengthen communities and diminish systemic problems. Ms. Horn is a native of Maryland and enjoys traveling and spending time with family.
The Minority Fellowship Program is a part of a Consortium of Behavioral and Mental Health professions. The Minority Fellowship Program aims to reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health care outcomes for racial and ethnic populations.

Each year the MFP meets twice to discuss important program and grant changes and to relate outcomes of each program to the overall effectiveness of the MFP under SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). This year the meeting was hosted by the American Psychological Association, at its headquarters in DC in February. One important outcome of the meeting this year was the standardization of programmatic approaches which will help to simplify the grant application and selection procedures for grantee organizations. The next meeting will be hosted by the American Nursing Association in November.

For more information subscribe to the Twitter hashtag, #MFPUNITED.
MFP Advisory Committee

The Minority Fellowship Program’s Advisory Committee assist the MFP in achieving its objectives of expanding the delivery of culturally competent mental health and substance abuse services to the underserved minority populations, and increasing the number of doctoral and master’s level culturally competent marriage and family therapists. With the new year, marked a transition of Anibal Torres-Bernal, PhD and the announcement of the new Advisory Committee Chairperson. The MFP is pleased to welcome the chairperson, who is eager to serve in the capacity that directs more MFTs (Doctoral and Masters Level) who are trained to increase services and subsequently access to mental health and substance abuse services for the underserved and minority populations. Advisory Committee Chairperson cites the opportunity to, “promote our (MFT) profession and emphasize the importance of diversity, multiculturalism, cultural competency, and substance abuse treatment.” The AC Chairperson has transitioned through every level of the MFP, from Master’s level to Doctoral level trained Fellow, then serving as an MFP Mentor; and then on the Advisory Committee. More information can be found on the MFP website. The Advisory Committee Chairperson is joined by:

Heather Katafiasz, Akron University
Ricky Patton, PhD, Akron University
Arnold Woodruff, Executive Director, VAMFT
Lorene Jabola, PhD
Deanna Linville, PhD, University of Oregon

AD-HOC MEMBERS

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<tr>
<th>Cassandra Lettenberger-Klein, PhD</th>
<th>Karin Jordan, PhD</th>
<th>Miguel Chupina-Orantes, PhD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hassan Karimi, PhD</td>
<td>Katie Heiden-Rootes, PhD</td>
<td>Monique Willis, PhD</td>
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<td>John Robbins, PhD</td>
<td>Kourtney Vaillancourt, PhD</td>
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2018 MFP Fellow Testimonial Word Cloud
Join the AAMFT MFP Community Network

A great place for MFP Alumni and Fellows to network, connect, and collaborate with Advisory Committee Members, Ad-Hoc Members, and MFP staff members.

Community Network

Contact the MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Minority Fellowship Program welcomes correspondence from the MFT Community. Please contact us should you have any questions about the program.

Mailing Address:

112 South Alfred Street Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314
Email: mfp@aamft.org
Website: www.aamftfoundation.org/MFP

Stay connected with the MFP on TWITTER & FACEBOOK!